

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of the following (a) and (b):

(a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 4;
and

(b) a protein which comprises the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 having deletion, substitution or addition of one to ten amino acids within the region from position 1 to position 400 and which has RNA binding activity.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA selected from the group consisting of the following (a) and (b):

(a) a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1;
and

(b) a DNA which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions and which encodes a protein having RNA binding activity.

6. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA selected from the group consisting of the following (a) and (b):

(a) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence spanning from position 154 to position 1836 of SEQ ID NO: 3; and

(b) a DNA which hybridizes to a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence spanning from position 154 to position 1836 of SEQ ID NO: 3 and which encodes a protein having RNA binding activity.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 3-6 to recite a "nucleic acid molecule" rather than a "gene". This change does not introduce new matter into the application, but merely comports with the election of SEQ ID NO: 3, a cDNA sequence, for examination. (See ¶ 63 of the